

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (previously presented). A method of protecting agricultural products, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one piece of nonwoven fabric consisting of spunbond filamentary elements formed from material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers;

forming a sheet from said nonwoven fabric having a finite length and width;

modifying at least one region of the nonwoven fabric so as to have an altered level of light transmittance by printing on said nonwoven fabric to occlude light transmission therethrough;

joining edge portions of said sheet of said nonwoven fabric to form a seam by at least one of heat-bonding, adhesive bonding, and sewing; and

positioning said protective cover generally about an agricultural product to alter the ripening of the agricultural product prior to harvesting and protecting the product from dust and/or insects.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (previously presented) A method of protecting agricultural products, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one piece of nonwoven fabric consisting of spunbond filamentary elements formed from material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers;

modifying at least one region of the nonwoven fabric so as to have an altered level of light transmittance by printing on said nonwoven to occlude light transmission therethrough;
forming a tube from said nonwoven fabric by joining together of edge portions thereof;
cutting said tube to a selected length to form a protective cover; and
positioning said protective cover generally about an agricultural product to protect the product from dust and/or insects.

Claim 24 (previously presented). A method of protecting agricultural products in accordance with claim 23, wherein:

said of forming a tube includes joining edge portions of said piece of nonwoven fabric by at least one of heat bonding, adhesive bonding, and sewing.

Claim 25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (cancelled).